



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 11, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Agreement For Surface Water And Groundwater Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey for water resources investigations related to surface water and groundwater measurements, for the period of November 1, 2011, through October 31, 2012, with a City cost share not to exceed \$111,150.

DISCUSSION:

The City and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have worked cooperatively on water resources monitoring and investigations for over 25 years, including on an annual program of measuring surface water flows and monitoring groundwater levels and water quality. As in the past, the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 program has two elements:

- **Surface Water Gauging Stations:** USGS will continue to operate, maintain, and publish stream flow records for four gauging and data collection stations on the Santa Ynez River, and one on Mission Creek. These stations provide real-time data and daily averages. The information is used to implement the Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement, for general documentation and monitoring of operations at Gibraltar Reservoir, and for tracking recharge releases into Mission Creek.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** City staff will continue to take monthly water level measurements at 71 monitoring well locations. USGS will maintain the database of water level data and continue a program of collecting and maintaining data on groundwater quality. The water level and water quality information is used in water supply forecasting and computer modeling of the City's groundwater supplies, including the potential impact from seawater intrusion into the downtown groundwater basin.

The data that is collected and maintained is an important part of managing the City's water supply.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The overall program cost is \$174,750, to be shared by the City (\$111,150) and USGS (\$63,600). Funds for this program are appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2012 Water Fund Operating Budget.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager BF/TL/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office